Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as submitted herewith on a separate unnumbered page.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[[A]] In a method ~~is proposed~~ for regenerating a nitrogen oxide storage catalytic converter [[(4)]] arranged in an exhaust pipe [[(3)]] of an internal combustion engine, ~~(1). In the method,~~ a constant value is set in a first regeneration phase [[(11)]] for the air/fuel ratio λ_M of the air/fuel mixture fed to the internal combustion engine [[(1)]] when a predeterminable triggering threshold value for the nitrogen oxide concentration in the exhaust gas on the output side of the nitrogen oxide storage catalytic converter [[(4)]] is exceeded. The first regeneration phase [[(11)]] is followed by a second regeneration phase, in which ~~(12). According to the invention, in the second regeneration phase (12),~~ the time rate of change $d\lambda_M/dt$ of the air/fuel ratio λ_M is set as a function of the mass flow of the exhaust gas flowing through the nitrogen oxide storage catalytic converter [[(4)]] or as a function of an internal combustion engine operating variable linked with the mass flow of exhaust gas.

~~Fig. 2.~~